

H.M.S.HOOD ASSOCIATION NEWS LETTER AUGUST 1995.

Shipmates Ladies and Gentlemen,

Another Reunion has passed and I think those that could attend enjoyed themselves. As we are all getting on in years it is natural that the numbers were down a bit. also of course sickness and financial problems. I will be 80 years old in January of next year, and I intend to give you all a share of the big increase in my pension. First come first served, the amount is a terrific 25 PENCE.

The Association is still quite strong with about 200 members who are now full members as motion passed at this years AGM.

Those of you who attended the Reunion no doubt noticed that we had two guests. Mr Rob White from ITV4 Dispatches programme, and Mr David Mearns from Oceanering Technologies of Maryland U. S. A. These two gentlemen did a programme about the sinking of the M. V. " Derbyshire" which was lost with all hands in the China Sea. The Wives and families of that ship were trying to find out the whys and where fors of what happened. Mr David Mearns and his company found " Derbyshire" with their equipment. The motion was put to myself and Ted Briggs our only survivor and the Committee that they would like to do a programme on the sinking of the "HOOD" and to visit her. After a lot of thought by the above, the "HOOD" being a War Grave we decided that provided nothing was touched on our ship we could give them the go ahead, and that they would put a memorial plaque on her. The enclosed letter from Ted will tell you more about this.

I would like to thank our Vice Chairman and Mr and Mrs Moulden for running the raffle at the Reunion. I was also, pleased to see Lt Roy Dumbleton from T. S. "HOOD" St Austell Cornwall, and Mr and Mrs Colin Armstrong from RNA St Austell Cornwall with his good lady. Thanks also to the Vicar of Boldre for the lovely service and beautiful singing of the choir. Thanks to the Committee who help me through the year, and Mrs K. Clark who allows us to have our meetings at her house and provides us with refreshments. We are all pleased that Miss J. Warrand has agreed to become our Vice President, her Father being Commander Warrand navigator who was lost in "HOOD". I have had a bit of a chase around to arrange the Get To Gether as the St Georges Club room has now closed. I have now arranged that we meet at the Petty Officers Mess in H. M. S. " Nelson" R. N. B. Portsmouth. I have arranged a Buffet at £2:50 a head, thats not too bad as the Bar prices are cheaper. Time will be 1930hrs until 2300hrs and there will be car parking space available. For this meeting I must have all names attending sent to me by the 1st NOVEMBER 1995. The reason for this is that I have to put a nominal list of names at the gate of "NELSON" to allow us in. This is very important so please let me have your names on time with £2:50p for Buffet. Medals should be worn for this meeting which will take place on the 11th November 1995 . The annual Service and parade for the Earl Mountbatten Memorial will take place at Romsey on the 3rd September 1995. Assemble at 1420hrs outside R. B. L. Club Latimer Street. There will be another news letter just before Christmas with details of next years Reunion , and ticket applications. Date of reunion 25th MAY 1996, followed by a church service, and march to St Georges Church with we hope the band of T. S. TENACITY and Guard of T. S. HORNET. Nobby tells me that there is still some members who have forgotten to pay their subscriptions for 1995, and even worse 1994 and 1993. For all those that have paid thankyou. Those that havn't please try and remember. Thankyou. Last but not least I must thank our Standard bearer Den Finden for Parading our Standard on so many occasions. My prayers and thoughts go to all who are sick and suffering, and God Bless you all. J. R. Williams. Chairman

HMS HOOD ASSOCIATION



VENTIS SECUNDIS

CHAIRMAN
J. R. Williams
14, Elizabeth Rd
Fareham
Hants. PO14 2RF
Tel: 01329 667983

PRESIDENT
Ted Briggs
10, Lambourn Close
Fareham
Hants. PO14 1SL
Tel: 01329 236661

TO WHOM IT MY CONCERN

Mr David Mearns of Oceaneering Technologies of Maryland , U. S. A, and Mr Rob White of ITN Productions, London, were invited to attend the HMS HOOD ASSOCIATION Annual Reunion in Portsmouth on Saturday 27th May 1995, and the Remembrance Service at Boldre Church (dedicated to HMS HOOD) near Lymington, Hampshire, on the 28th May 1995.

Having met these two gentlemen, who discussed their plans at length, members of the Association wholeheartedly support the expedition to locate and film the wreck of HMS HOOD, and are confident that this will be conducted with the utmost sensitivity and respect for the site where she lies as a War Grave.

The membership are further convinced that this expedition is a most appropriate way to commemorate the life and service of the HOOD and all who sailed in her, particularly those who tragically lost their lives in her final battle. The television documentary of the voyage to find the wreck, with a projected accompanying exhibition, will provide a fitting memorial to their sacrifice and valour.

We further feel that detailed recorded investigation of the damaged hull will finally answer the critical historical and technical questions about the explosion that immediately proceeded the HOOD'S sinking.

Finally, the placing of a memorial plaque on the wreck on behalf of the Association, widows and families, would give comfort and be appreciated by all concerned.

J. R Williams

Ted Briggs

Chairman HMS Hood Association

President HMS Hood Association.

#314 ROYAL CANADIAN (SEA) CADET CORPS
NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1994 ASSOCIATION

#314 Royal Canadian (Sea) Cadet Corps HOOD
P. O. Box 293
Coboconk ON K0M 1K0
CANADA

6 January 1995

Mr. J. R. Williams
Chairman, H.M.S. HOOD Association
14 Elizabeth Road
Stubbington
Fareham
Hampshire
PO14 2RF

Dear Mr. Williams:

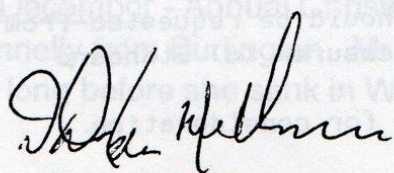
The Officers and cadets of #314 HOOD would like to express our deep appreciation for the beautiful trophy which Mr. George Donnelly presented to our Corps on 14 December 1994 on your behalf. Mr. Burton's handiwork in making this trophy is certainly unparalleled, and it will now be our Corps' premier trophy. We are very honoured to have it.

Would you please pass on our appreciation to Mr. Warrand and Mrs. Jeffs, as we do not have their address in order to do so ourselves.

Enclosed are the last few Newsletters, and some photos taken of the evening. Two videos were also taken, but they have not been developed as yet.

Once again, our deep and sincere thanks to all involved in making this trophy.

Sincerely,



D. Douglas Melbourne, Lt(N)

HMS HOOD ASSOCIATION

This is a copy of Ted's letter to the Chairman.

Dear John,

I may be completely and entirely wrong, but I feel I must put in writing to you, and the committee my thoughts and convictions in view of the misfortunes that have befallen the Association and some of our members over the last year.

We are all regrettably subject to 'anno domini' (no matter how hard we try to fight it) which is very evident in the number of our members who are sadly no longer with us.

There are also a number of us who through illness, I do not think will be in any position to continue with their existing enthusiastic and sterling work for very much longer. Names that spring immediately to mind who have given particular cause are Bob Tilburn, Ken Clark, and your good self from the committee plus people like Albert RN Nobby Mould and Nobby Hume all with very serious medical problems.

In addition to the above and others, I suspect, who I have not mentioned there are many who, through age infirmities or financial considerations are no longer able to attend Re-unions except in spirit. Indeed those members who are able to attend are dwindling rapidly due to the above and increasing cost of travel, accommodation and tickets- despite the commendable and very much appreciated efforts of yourself and the committee to subsidise and alleviate this situation- which brings me to the crux of the matter.

Whilst I fully acknowledge appreciate and indeed agree with the aims of the Association, and am truly grateful to every single member for their dedication and support I do think that the time has come for serious planning for the future, and would like to put forward the following proposals and suggestions by the committee and Association.

1. The annual Reunion, in its present form to be discontinued after the 1995 Reunion and thence split into localised "Get togethers". The present News Letter being made into an annual News Letter with items being forwarded by various members for inclusion.
2. The Remembrance service to be continued at Boldre but respecting that this may be limited to those able to and that, again 'Localisation' may be a possible answer for others to be with us in Spirit.
3. Providing our Standard Bearer and his escort are willing to continue at major services and parades I would be very loath to see this stop. If however this is not considered to be a viable proposition then perhaps consideration may be given to the Standard being "Laid up" at Boldre or ST Annes.
4. Annual "Subs" would require some discussion but I would suggest that this be placed on a voluntary contribution basis. The handling of existing funds to be carried out as heretofore.
5. An "IN WAITING" list of following officials should be requested from the Association (a) Chairman (b) Secretary (c) Treasurer (d) Standard Bearer.

It is with deepest regret that I submit the above for consideration.

Yours sincerely

This letter is signed by Ted Briggs.

#314 ROYAL CANADIAN (SEA) CADET CORPS
NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER, 1994 #12/94

Attendance:

Percentage for month:	87%
AVG. EFFECTIVE STRENGTH:	11
Male Strength, end month:	11
Female Strength, end month:	13
TOTAL CADETS:	24

4 December - Santa Claus Parade. Lt(N) Melbourne marched as a member of the Legion Colour Party. A/SLt Melbourne attended as a Sea Cadet Officer. Cadets: Bowins; Brougham; Broumley C; Broumley D; Burbidge; Cameron; Dow C; Dow L; Fildey; Larocque; MacNeil JT; Peacock; Rouxel; Samis; Stower; Stuckey; Wickie; Williams marched in the Parade. This Parade gets bigger and bigger every year. Sandwiches and hot chocolate were served afterwards.

#106 RC(Sea)CC, Oshawa, attended with their band. They have attended for many years in a row now. The Legion pays Oshawa Sea Cadet Band \$750.00 for their participation, and is still interested in the Peterborough Sea Cadet band also participating. A/SLt Melbourne has sent a second letter to the CO, Peterborough, enquiring as to their interest in attending in 1995.

7 December - As the Legion Hall is unavailable (the Norland Senior Citizens' Club have their Annual Christmas Dinner every first Wednesday of December), a Movie Night was held; "Speed" was shown, which cadets seemed to enjoy. Popcorn was also served (with a remarkable amount ending up on the floor, which had to be vacuumed afterwards).

The Chief Petty Officer 2nd Class Board examination for PO1 Tamara Stuckey was held. This Board consisted of SLt Williams, with Lt(N) Melbourne representing the Legion as Second Vice President. She passed, did very well, and is to be congratulated. Although her promotion was granted, at the moment we do not have a Chief's badge to present to her, so this will be done when the badges we have ordered are received.

The practical portion of the PO2 examination was given to LC MacNeil and LC Dow by C.I. John Broumley. They both passed this and their promotion was granted. They both did very well and are to be congratulated.

14 December - Annual Christmas/Mess Dinner. Guest of honour was Mr. George Donnelly from Burlington. Mr. Donnelly served on HMS HOOD, transferring off not long before she sank in WWII. He is a member of HMS HOOD Association

based in England, and was our Corps' Inspecting Officer for our second Annual Inspection In 1993. He was accompanied tonight by Mr. Gordon Powell, Director Ontario Division, Navy League of Canada, who is also President of the Burlington Navy League Branch. Unfortunately, Mrs. Donnelly was not well enough to attend.

Mr. James Warrand from New South Wales, Australia, a member of HMS HOOD Association, has donated a trophy in the name of his father, Commander Warrand, who perished aboard HMS HOOD. He is donating a similar trophy for T.S. HOOD in England (Corps are known as Training Ships in England and Australia). The trophy was a very beautiful miniature of most knots known. This was entirely hand made by Mr. Albert E. Burton (the "knot man") of HMS HOOD Association. This Trophy will be awarded to a deserving cadet each year, who will have their name engraved on it, with the Trophy being hung in the "Quiet Room" of Branch #519, Royal Canadian Legion.

Mrs Jeffs of HMS HOOD Association has donated ten Achievement Award Certificates in the name of her brother, CPO Surrey, who also lost his life in HMS HOOD. These Certificates were also presented tonight. An Achievement Award Certificate will be awarded each year to a deserving cadet.

Mr. Donnelly presented the Trophy and the Achievement Certificates on behalf of HMS HOOD Association. He made a very gracious speech about his life aboard HMS HOOD, which will have been of great interest to the cadets. They will have few opportunities to hear what life would have been like aboard such a great ship. The Corps appreciates Mr. Donnelly's efforts and interest in our Corps, and hope that we can accept his invitation to bring some HOOD cadets to Burlington in May for the dedication of the Naval Memorial Monument.

The Officers and cadets of #314 RC(Sea)CC HOOD would like to thank HMS HOOD Association, Mr. Warrand, and Mrs. Jeffs very much for the trophy and certificates. Two videos were taken of the proceedings, and photos as well. Copies of the photos will be sent to HMS HOOD Association and to Mr. Donnelly.

Attending the dinner were all of our cadets (with the exception of LC Amy Brougham who had a School Concert and could not attend), SLT Williams, CO; Lt(N) Melbourne, XO; A/SLT Melbourne, AdmO; CI John Broumley, TrgO; CI Carol Broumley, SupO; and CI Ed Macdonald, Rifle Coach.

Guests were: Laurie Barkwell, Branch #519 Royal Canadian Legion; Cheryl Kondracki, our former Supply Officer, and her guest Dave Crites, former Supply Tech, Reserve Support Staff, Peterborough. The ACICO could not attend as he was in Kingston that evening, and the ACO Sea and ACA Sea had other commitments.



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H. M. S. HOOD ASSOCIATION.

BALANCE SHEET FOR 1994/1995

CURRENT ACCOUNT OPENED 1st MAY 1994 WITH THE SUM OF £1044.77.

CREDIT		DEBIT	
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	1,044.77	DINNER 1994	1,188.00
SUBSCRIPTIONS	498.00	DEPOSIT DINNER 1995	150.00
DONATIONS	378.20	R. S. H. C. COUNTRY MEMBERSHIP	25.00
SALES	1,700.00	MUSIC	90.00
		FLOWERS (DECORATIONS)	62.00
		GUEST OF HONOUR GIFTS	51.08
		R. B. L. WREATHS	25.35
		POSTAGE	127.90
		PRINTING	158.91
		ENVELOPES	21.80
		RAFFLE GOODS	17.52
		T/SHIRTS	104.58
		WREATH BOB TILBURN	32.50
		FLOWERS MRS HURST	20.00
		GET TOGETHER	57.50
		MR WARRAND AWARDS TO	
		ST AUSTELL & COBOCONK	184.45
		BOLDRE COACH 25% DEPOSIT	36.25
		DONATION RON PATERSON WALK	50.00
		HONORARIUMS	125.00
		MRS CLARK COMMITTEE	
		SERVICES	30.00
		REFUND MR W GORDON-HARRIS	16.00
		TOTAL	2,573.84

TOTAL RECEIPTS 3,620.97

PAYMENTS 2,573.84
 TOTAL IN BANK 1,047.13
 TOTAL 3,620.97

PREMIUM DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NOW STANDS AT 1,442.09

EXAMINED BY MRS. M.L. SIMPSON. A/c 1 A.M.

SIGNED M.L. Simpson

SIGNED K.A. Clark TREASURER

Shadow served in the famous Hood

By MAURICE LEPPARD

SHANKLIN hotelier Doug Hinsley, 60, has two shadows. One reflects his jaunty, bulky figure while the second has sleeker lines, but has followed him around for the last 35 years.

They have been almost inseparable since the day Doug saw a cabin cruiser named Shadow in Diglis Basin at Worcester.

He quickly discovered that this was no ordinary pleasure craft because she had started life as a motorboat built to serve with the famous battle cruiser HMS Hood.

As anyone familiar with the war at sea will know, the Hood was sunk off Iceland in May 1941 by the German battleship Bismark. Only one midshipman and two ratings survived from her crew of 1,419.

It ranked as one of Britain's greatest naval disasters — and inevitably Shadow would not be around today had she been aboard at that time.

Built at Devonport in 1914, she had been replaced by another motorboat in 1934.

Two years later she was bought by an RAF officer, Wing Commander Harry Nunn, who was in charge of air sea rescue at Portsmouth for part of the second world war.

He had her converted to a five-berth cabin cruiser at Thornycroft's Woolston yard but, despite major changes to the superstructure, her original 35ft double teak hull remained intact.

It was in July 1956 that Doug, then working as an engineer in Birmingham for the Midlands Electricity Board, first set eyes on Shadow.

Although it was love at first sight there seemed no chance that they would ever get together.

"She was up for sale for £850 and there was no way I could afford that," said Doug. "However, Wing Commander Nunn, who also lived in Birmingham, made it possible.

"He told me that someone had put a £100 deposit on the boat nine months before but had not followed up the purchase and just left her in a hell of a state.

"He said he was prepared to treat the £100 he had already received as my deposit and I could pay off the rest at £10 a month."

Five months later, during which Doug and his wife Rita spent most weekends scraping, painting and varnishing, Shadow looked as good as new.

They and son David were rewarded with happy days afloat, often going down the River Severn and exploring the



Doug Hinsley and his son David are seen on board the Shadow.

coastline of the Bristol Channel.

With a huge tide, the Severn had to be treated with great respect.

"One moment you were struggling against it and the next whoosh and you were away," re-called Doug, who had complete confidence in the seaworthiness of a boat built to naval specifications.

About ten years after becoming the proud skipper of Shadow he was surprised to receive a letter from Earl Mountbatten asking if Doug would be prepared to surrender the boat's name to the famous sailor statesman and Island Governor to be.

"According to Lloyd's Register you cannot have two boats with the same name.

"Lord Mountbatten's boats were called Shadow, but with a number linked to it," explained Doug.

"I think he was on about Shadow Four at the time but I wrote back that I would be very reluctant to re-name Shadow because of her links with the Hood and the fact Wing Commander Nunn told me she was used in the Dunkirk evacuation.

"I got a nice letter back saying that Lord Mountbatten perfectly understood and respected my decision."

In 1971 Doug and Rita came

to the Island.

He had only gone into electrical engineering as a secondary occupation. Theatre was his great love and as a boy soprano he broadcast on the BBC.

He later switched to acting and appeared in Coronation Street, Z Cars and Crossroads.

He ran a major theatrical agency in the Midlands before coming to the Island to produce the Temperance Seven at Shanklin Pier Theatre.

His wife, stage name Rita Grant, appeared in the show.

She was a well-known singer and dancer who, when aged 14, was the youngest member of the famous Tiller Girls' dancing troupe.

Having settled in Shanklin, Doug was faced with the task of bringing "his Shadow" to the Island from Worcester, via the exposed waters of Land's End.

The four-day trip, with son David as crew, proved unexpectedly eventful and not just because of unfriendly weather, which included battling against a Force Eight gale approaching the Needles.

"It was around that time there was a major drugs case on the Island and every time we called into port for the night the boat was thoroughly checked out by Customs and Excise," said

Doug.

"I just could not understand it and it was not until later that I was told that it was because it was thought there were drugs aboard Shadow."

A lot of water has flowed since then with the boat being berthed for periods at Wootton, Binfield and Bembridge.

Three years ago thieves virtually stripped her internally.

Doug, who has fought bravely against ill-health, had Shadow transported from Bembridge to the safety of the back garden of his hotel, the Glenshee in Avenue Road, Shanklin.

Because of developing a brittle bone condition he has been unable to give the attention he so expertly and willingly gave in the past.

He has, however, turned down requests from various museums to donate her to them.

"She has become too much a part of my life to part with and I have now saved enough money to get her back to pristine condition," he said.

To do that Doug needs to enlist the help of a boatbuilder, whom he will pay to do the work he can longer do himself.

"It will be worth every penny to get her ship-shape again," said Doug as he gazed wistfully at his Shadow.

the Amateur Radio

By MAURICE LEVY

GB2HA

A Amateur Radio special event station will be set up and run on behalf of the H.M.S. HOOD association on the 18th November 1995 between 10.00 and 22.00 hrs.

The station's call will be GB2HA (HOOD ASSOCIATION)
The station will be run on HF radio on the 20,40 and 80 mtr bands so they hope to reach Canada,USA,and all round the world so if you are a Radio Amateur or you know one give the station a call. The station will be run at the home (QTH) of Malcolm GOLMD who live's in the Winchester area. A special event card will be printed and sent to all contacts, So we hope to hear from you.

SHANKLIN hotelier Doug Hinney, 60, has two shadows. One reflects his jaunty, bulky figure while the second has followed him around for 15 years.

They have been together since the day they were first introduced in 1980. The shadow was an RAF officer, Wing Commander Harry King, who was in charge of an air base at Farnborough for part of his second world war.

He had not contacted King for 15 years when he was working as an engineer in Birmingham for the British Electricity Board, but King was in the area in 1995.

Although it was long, it was not a chance meeting. King had been in the area for some time and had been in contact with King's family.

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CLARENCE HOUSE
S.W. 1

22nd December 1994



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Dear Mr Williams

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother was delighted to receive your Card and Christmas greetings.

The Queen Mother has asked me to thank you most sincerely, and at the same time, I am to convey to you and to the former Ship's Company HMS HOOD Her Majesty's best wishes for Christmas and the year ahead.

Sandy Hartman

Private Secretary to
Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother

J. Williams, Esq.

The Private Secretary is commanded by The Queen to thank you for your kind message of greetings.

Her Majesty and The Duke of Edinburgh were delighted to receive this and send you their best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Christmas 1994.

H.M.S.HOOD ASSOCIATION

A. G. M. HELD AT THE R. S. H. CLUB 2 BELLS 1st DOG 27.5 1995.

Ted Briggs (Survivor) Presiding. J. R. Williams Chairman. With 27 members in attendance

Apologies. Comdr Paterson.

Vice President Ted Briggs announced that our President Bob Tilburn crossed the bar in February. As the sole survivor of our great ship Lt T. Briggs was automatically elected as President. This he readily accepted.

The minutes of the 1994 A. G. M. were read and adopted as a true record and signed by the Chairman J. Williams. There were no matters arising.

Ted Briggs then read out a letter he had written to the Committee as to his concern for the future of the Association. ie. the lowering of our members etc, due to the passing of the years. As stated this had already been sent to the Committee, and had been discussed by them, and it was whole heartedly agreed to carry on as we are as long as and as well as we could, though an injection of young blood would be greatly welcomed.

Treasurers report. Shipmate Ken Clark produced a very healthy and satisfactory balance sheet for which we thank him very much.

Venue for 1996. After some discussion it was agreed :- The Home Club Portsmouth, 25th MAY 1996, in the smaller room; This room can accommodate up to 200. The menu will cost £15.75. The total cost of ticket will be finalized later. Our Church service for the next morning will be at ST GEORGES CHURCH. A march with the band of T. S. Tenacity to be arranged and a Guard of Honour from T. S. HORNET to be arranged by Shipmate E. McConnell. In consequence the Boldre Church service will have to be agreed with the Vicar of Boldre.

Election of Officers. The serving Committee announced that they were willing to continue to serve. It was then proposed Mrs May Kiddle and seconded Mrs Hilda Walls that the Committee be re-elected. This was voted and carried unanimously

1995. Get Together. it was agreed that the November Get together would be at the ST Georges Hall on the 11th. This would coincide with the Remembrance Service Weekend.

A. O. B. Ted Briggs produced postcards of an artists work of our Great Ship at sea. His commission would commit us to a minimum of 50 pictures at £40.00 each. this was considered as a non starter. And we thought said artist a supreme Optimist.

T. N. Represented by Rob White and David Mearns from the USA attended our reunion dinner and Boldre church service with a view to producing a video of the Life of our great ship "HOOD". Having seen the success of their video of M. V. DERBYSHIRE, we as an Association wish them a great success in their endeavours, and hope we live to see it reach fruition. A Vote of thanks from us all was then recorded to Shipmates Albert Burton, Fred Carrington, and Ken Clark, for all the work in producing and helping to present the Shields and Vellum Certificates to T. S. HOOD. Cornwall. and their Canadian Cousins in COBOCONK. Padre Ron Paterson then made his apologies as having no dash of to yet another reunion.

There being no other business. meeting ended 4 bells of first Dog Watch.

signed as correct.

Chairman